

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 EB-07 /105 W

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R 281250Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1805

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

:AMEMBASSY MUSCAT 0341

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 5476

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IR IZ BA MU KU

SUBJ: KUWAITI EDITOR INTERVIEWS SHAH

SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS DEC 28 GIVES PROMINENT TREATMENT TO IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW BY LOCAL EDITOR WITH SHAH OF IRAN. REGARDLESS OF ACCURACY, SOME OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO SHAH WILL CAUSE UNHAPPINESS IN ARAB COUNTRIES AND MAKE MORE DIFFICULT RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND ARAB NEIGHBORS. SUMMARY OF REMARKS FOLLOWS. COMPLETE TEXT BEING POUCHED. END SUMMARY

1. DECEMBER 28 EDITIONS OF AS-SIYASSA AND KUWAIT TIMES CARRY FRONT PAGE ACCOUNT, DETELINED TEHRAN, OF INTERVIEW BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AHMED JARALLAH (ALSO MAJOR SHAREHOLDER BOTH PAPERS) WITH SHAH OF IRAN. JARALLAH ATTRIBUTES FOLLOWING REMARKS, INTER ALIA, TO SHAH.

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2. DHOFAR; IRAN IS IN OMAN "BECAUSE THEY ASKED" AND TO ENSURE

"THAT THE ENTRANCE IN FRONT OF BANDAR ABBAS WILL NOT FALL IN THE HANDS OF THE WRONG PEOPLE." HE CLAIMED "WE HAVE OCCUPIED ALL THE REGIONS WE WERE ASKED TO OCCUPY" AND PREDICTED THAT IRANIAN ROLE IN DHOFAR WILL CONTRIBUTE TO SETTLEMENT THAT DISPUTE.

3. KUWAITI-IRAQI DISPUTE: "I HAVE HEARD THAT THEY (THE IRAQIS) HAVE OCCUPIED A PART OF YOUR COUNTRY...IT'S OBVIOUSLY UP TO YOU, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE NEVER AGREED TO ANY SORT OF A COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN THE REGION." WHEN ASKED WHAT HE MEANT BY A COOPERATION AGREEMENT, THE SHAH ALLEGEDLY REFUSED TO NAME POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS SAYING " I AM THINKING OF A GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ALL COUNTRIES."

4. PERSIAN/ARABIAN GULF: AFTER REJECTING JARALLAH SUGGESTION OF USE OF TERM "ISLAMIC GULF", SHAH REPORTEDLY SAID "YOU (ARABS) HAVE NO RIGHT OF SAYING WHAT YOU ARE HISTORICALLY OR GEOGRAPHICALLY. ALL HISTORICAL AND CURRENT BOOKS AND RECORDS OUTSIDE YOUR COUNTRIES REFER TO THE PERSIAN GULF." HE ADDED "IF YOU WANT TO BASE YOUR RELATIONS ON ONE-SIDED DECISIONS THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN AGAINST HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY, IT'S BETTER THAT WE DON'T ENTER INTO ANY KIND OF NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE, IF YOUR ATTITUDE IS THE SAME, WE ARE GOING TO GO NOWHERE."

5. US FACILITIES IN BAHRAIN: THE SHAH SAID THAT IRAN'S BASIC POLICY WAS TO HAVE A PEACE ZONE IN THE GULF "WHICH MEANS NEITHER AMERICAN NOR RUSSIAN SHIPS."

6. IRAQ: THE SHAH REPORTEDLY DENIED THAT IRAN NEEDS TO SHOW MORE FLEXIBILITY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH IRAQ. HE ACCUSED IRAQ OF NOT IMPLEMENTING FAITHFULLY A "SECRET AGREEMENT" WHICH THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD REACHED AT ISTANBUL. IRAN ONLY ASKS OF IRAQ "EQUAL RIGHTS ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW" IN THE SHATT AL ARAB AND THE GULF. HE MAINTAINED THAT IRAN WAS NOT ENCOURAGING THE KURDS NOR DID THE KURDS WANT A SEPARATE KURDISTAN "THERE IS ONLY A DEMAND OF SOME AUTONOMY WITHIN IRAQ, NOT OUTSIDE."

7. OTHER: THE SHAH IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IRAN WOULD NOT SEEK A NUCLEAR(MILITARY) CAPABILITY, HAD REITERATED HIS PET THEME

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THAT OIL PRICES SHOULD BE LINKED TO THE PRICES OF OTHER COMMODITIES, AND CLAIMED HE "WOULD NOT REMAIN SOFT" IF US/FRENCH AGREEMENTS ON GOLD SHOULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF PURCHASING POWER. HE ALSO REJECTED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF FORMER CIA DIRECTOR HELMS AS AMBASSADOR TO IRAN HAD ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.

8. COMPLETE TEXT OF INTERVIEW AS IT APPEARS IN LOCAL PRESS

BEING POUCHED.

9. COMMENT: JARALLAH IS KNOWN TO EMBASSY AS "PRICKLY" CHARACTER NOT ADVERSE TO GOADING RASH STATEMENTS FROM PERSONS HE INTERVIEWS. WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR ACCURACY OF REMARKS HE ATTRIBUTES TO SHAH, BUT IF HIS GOAL WAS TO PRODUCE ADVERSE REACTION IN ARAB WORLD TO SHAH AND IRAN HE APPEARS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED, AT LEAST IN KUWAIT.
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, DHOFAR WAR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUWAIT05476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740376-0849
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974126/aaaaaexo.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAITI EDITOR INTERVIEWS SHAH SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS DEC 28 GIVES PROMINENT TREATMENT TO
TAGS: PFOR, IR, IZ, BA, MU, KU, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005